

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 857 without my signature.

While I support the author's goal of access for families to relevant services and information about autism, current law provides a method of furnishing that information and delivering services. Under existing law, 21 regional centers are required to develop relevant information and provide access to appropriate services for children with autism. The regional center system and its allied agencies are the most efficient system for identifying the needs of children with autism and informing their families. Supports and services offered by regional centers are comprehensive and offer a cost-effective method of evaluating and serving persons with autism.

Current regional center resource development and service coordination practices include the development of educational and informational guides that describe services related to autism. This service coordination also includes meeting formally and informally with each person with autism and their family to describe the nature of the person's disability, how it was diagnosed and what steps should be taken to promote that person's individual growth.

For these reasons I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger